



# Montgomery County Council

---

*From the Office of Councilmember Roger Berliner*

---

May 26, 2009

Contact: 240-777-7828

## **Montgomery Council Vice President Berliner To Speak at Energy Efficiency Summit**

On Wednesday, May 27, Councilmember Will Call for a  
Chimneys First Policy in a Speech Before the  
Residential Energy Efficiency Business Model Summit

N  
E  
W  
S  
  
R  
E  
L  
E  
A  
S  
E

ROCKVILLE, Md., May 26, 2009—Montgomery County Council Vice President Roger Berliner will participate on a national panel of energy experts on Wednesday, May 27, at the National Residential Energy Efficiency Business Model Summit at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel in Washington, D.C. Councilmember Berliner will call for a "Chimneys First" approach for reducing energy consumption and green house gas emissions.

"A critically important focus for our nation is a 'Chimneys First' policy acknowledging that even as we ask and demand more of our smokestack industries, we should first exploit the extraordinary range of benefits that are available right in our own homes—the source of approximately one-third of our nation's total green house gas emissions," said Councilmember Berliner. "Making inroads into this critical energy consuming sector has eluded us for far too long and it is, in my view, the predicate—politically, economically and environmentally—to an effective emissions reduction strategy."

Councilmember Berliner will talk about Montgomery's new Home Energy Loan Program (HELP) that he authored in which a homeowner would voluntarily obtain a home energy audit from a certified auditor to identify the universe of cost effective, energy efficient and renewable energy measures that could be taken. The homeowner would then take the results of the audit to the County, which would provide a zero interest loan to make the improvements.

(MORE)

According to Councilmember Berliner, a “Chimneys First” policy “simultaneously stimulates the economy, creates new green jobs, helps out the depressed building sector of our economy, reduces utility bills for our consumers, reduces greenhouse gas emissions for our planet and is fiscally responsible. It is a combination worthy of Van Jones, Paul Volker and Al Gore, and in our community was supported by the building industry, the real estate industry, energy efficiency manufacturers and environmental organizations.”

Councilmember Berliner, who in 2008 was the chief sponsor of a package of bills that put Montgomery County at the forefront of counties nationally in regard to climate change legislation, will speak at 10:15 a.m. on May 27 as part of a panel on “Selected Residential Energy Efficiency Business Models.”

More information about the forum is available by calling 240-777-7828.

A copy of his speech is attached separately.

# # #